REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated April 6, 2006 contained a final rejection of claims 1-31. The Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14 and 17. Claims 1-31 are in the case. Please consider the present amendment with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This amendment is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, 14, 15, 17-24, and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,582). Also, the Office Action rejected claims 9, 16 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,582) in view of Barrett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,647,056). In addition, the Office Action rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,582) in view of Van Horne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,430). Last, the Office Action rejected claims 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,582) in view of Logan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,680).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the amendments to the claims and the arguments below.

The Applicants' independent claims now include storing configuration information associated with the particular license purchased, automatically configuring the server based on the configuration information, displaying an information screen identifying the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set, displaying cost information based on the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set, the cost information representing the cost to install components of the software product and provide the first service to the server-assisted network devices in the first set, and automatically installing firmware on each server-assisted network device in the first set to support the first service.

With regard to the rejections under U.S.C. 102, the Applicants respectfully submit

that Smith et al. clearly do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the above claimed features. Instead, Smith et al. merely disclose distributing, registering and purchasing software application and other digital information over a network (see Abstract of Smith et al.). Since Smith et al. do not disclose the newly added claimed elements of the independent claims, Smith et al. cannot anticipate the claims. Hence, the Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 should be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103, the combined references do not disclose, teach or suggest all of the Applicants' features. Namely, although Van Horne et al. disclose determining IP addresses (see 10:30 – 11:15 and Fig. 9 of Van Horne et al.) and Logan et al. disclose distributing billing information (see 3:5 – 15 of Logan et al.), the combined references still fail to disclose the Applicants' **newly** amended features of storing configuration information associated with the particular license purchased, automatically configuring the server based on the configuration information, displaying an **information screen** identifying the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set, displaying cost information based on the number of server-assisted network devices in the first set, the cost information representing the cost to install components of the software product and provide the first service to the server-assisted network devices in the first set, and automatically installing firmware on each server-assisted network device in the first set to support the first service.

This **failure** of the cited references, either alone or in combination, to disclose, suggest or provide motivation for the Applicant's claimed invention indicates a lack of a prima facie case of obviousness. Accordingly, the combined cited references cannot render the Applicant's invention obvious. W.L. Gore& Assocs. V. Garlock, Inc., 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983). (*MPEP 2143*). (MPEP 2143).

With regard to the rejection of the dependent claims, because they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim

rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to **telephone** the Applicants' attorney at **(818) 885-1575**. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

Hewlett Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

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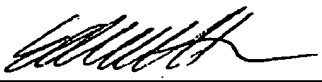

Edmond A. DeFrank
Reg. No. 37,814
Attorney for Applicant

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